659 A high percentage of priests had for some time viewed with
794 misgivings the hostile attitude adopted by their leaders to the young People's Republic. They expressed their desire to come to an agreement with the State, and declared openly that they were on the side of peace and for the rebuilding of the country.

[575] As a result the National Committee of Catholic Priests for the Defence of Peace was formed and the Congress also played its part in stimulating the extremely important Church-State Agreement of August 30 which was signed jointly by the Minister of Religion and Public Education and by the Archbishop of Kalocsa on behalf of the Bench of Bishops.

Catholic Agreement

The Government of the Hungarian People's Republic and the Bench of Hungarian Catholic Bishops, desiring to ensure the peaceful co-existence of the State and the Catholic Church and so to promote the unity of the Hungarian people in its work of peaceful reconstruction and to further the peaceful development of our country have, after discussion, come to the following agreement:

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1. The members of the Bench of Bishops recognise and, in accordance with their duty as citizens, support the State of the Hungarian People's Republic and its Constitution. They declare that according to the rules of the Church they will take proceedings against any ecclesiastical persons who act against the laws of the Hungarian People's Republic and the constructive work of the Government.

2. The Bench of Bishops condemns all kinds of subversive activities directed against the State and the social laws of the Hungarian People's Republic. It announces that it will not permit the exploitation of the religious feelings of the congregations of the Catholic Church for anti-State political purposes.

3. The Bench of Bishops asks the Catholic congregations, as citizens and as patriots, to participate with all their strength in the great work which the whole Hungarian nation is doing under the leadership of the People's Republic, in fulfilling the Five-Year Plan and raising the standard of living for the [423] realisation of social justice. The Bench of Bishops urges the clergy in particular not to resist the development of the agricultural co-operative movement, as such a voluntary co-operation is based upon the moral principle of human solidarity.

794 4. The Bench of Bishops supports the peace movement and
208 it approves the efforts of the Hungarian people, and of the Government of the Hungarian People's Republic, to defend peace. It condemns all instigation to war, condemns the use

874 students whose rooms showed the customary diverse interests of of youth—in learning, sport and the girl at home. Their opportunities of learning here are considerable because, apart from lectures, the library is quite outstanding and is as well equipped with modern literature as it is with Calvin and De Beza first editions and early Hungarian Bibles.

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Bishop János Péter, member of the World Council of Peace.

794 One of the most outstanding achievements of the Hungarian 204 Protestant Churches is their Church Press. They run separate church newspapers but they maintain a combined Church Press Office which issues periodical bulletins in English and German but whose most important work is the regular supply of church news to all the Hungarian Press both national and local. The Reformed Church itself has a number of papers; its weekly *Az Út* (The Way) has a 12,000 edition, the fortnightly *Református Egyház* (The Reformed Church) prints 2,000, and for the work of evangelisation there is the 32-page *Református Krónika* (Reformed Chronicle). There are other similar papers such as the Debrecen *Vasárnap* (Sunday). Two bulletins are also published: the *Church Courier* and *Hungarian Church Press.*
[i.e. Calvin College in Budapest--Analyst]

346 cathedral built between 1822 and 1869 in imitation of St. Peter's, Rome, dominates the City; the Franciscan buildings had been nationalised, now they are returned to the Church, while the nunnery, on the other hand, has become a State school. The seminary is busy training Catholic priests and the Palace of the Prince Primate is inhabited by nuns, two vicars and church offices although uniformed retainers and cars are still in evidence.

659 The dissolution of certain religious orders was agreed at the 792 time of the Church-State discussions as was the continued existence of the Franciscans, the Benedictines, the Piarists, and the Hungarian Poor Sisters of Our Lady. Monks of dissolved orders have become secular priests while the lay brothers have mainly become school teachers. Each of the remaining orders has two houses, except the Franciscans who have three.

Christians and Peace

[795] More than anything else, perhaps, it is the movement for 794 peace which has paved the way for the co-operation of all the 208 churches in Hungary, not only with the Government but with the 575 Communists. As the movement has developed more and more Christians have come into it. This was abundantly demonstrated in May, 1950, with the beginning of the collection of signatures for the Stockholm Peace Petition. Immediately after this the Reformed Church sent a message to the World Council of Churches pleading with it to take a stand for peace and, at the same time a letter was sent to all its parishes urging the clergy to take part in the peace movement; the Unitarians called on all their ministers to work against war; Catholic priests began to make statements for the Peace Movement, whereas the bishops opposed their participation. In June came the Hungarian Peace Congress with strong Protestant participation and some Catholic. Then came the Cathlic Priests' Peace Conference, already noted, and the Church-State agreement which led the Secretary of the Catholic Priests' Peace Committee, Fr. Richard Horváth, to say:

"This agreement proves that those who initiated the Catholic Priests' Peace Movement were right. The movement has helped in bringing about the agreement and, thus, the long wished-for desire of millions is realised. With this agreement we have made a great step forward in strengthening internal peace.

"We promise to support the Bench of Bishops so that they can fulfil the agreement—which serves the best interests of our people and their spiritual welfare—with the best possible results. We express our thanks to, and our confidence in, the Government for its goodwill and understanding of the interests of the Catholic Church, and towards the workers' loyalty to faith, and respect for traditions. We again declare that we shall continue to do our duty as citizens with enthusiasm and unselfishness."

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Father Richard Horváth.

Both Catholics and Protestants protested to the Security Council against the bombing of civilians in Korea. At the World Peace Congress there were substantial Catholic and Protestant delegations, the Catholic being led by Fr. Horváth and the Protestant by Bishop Péter of Debrecen and Bishop Dezséry of the Lutherans. At the same time the Protestants issued a peace appeal to the Christians of the world; in January the Catholic paper *Uj Ember* (New People) expressed its approval of the Peace Law as did *A Kereszt* (The Cross)* the new weekly paper of the Catholic Priests' Peace Committee and the Lutheran Bishops issued a joint pastoral on Peace.

Recent Developments

Since that time there have been a number of developments of general interest.

In May, 1951, a new law was passed creating a State Office for Church Affairs charged with dealing with all relations between the Churches and the State. No new principle was involved in this measure because the Minister of Education had previously held the responsibility for dealing with such matters. The creation of the new department recognised that the churches were independent and ought not to be confused with questions such as education which were directly the province of the State, and at the same time, by creating a Minister responsible solely for relations between State and Church, it assured that these relations

* Other Catholic periodicals are the bulletin *Magyar-Kurir* (Hungarian Courier) and the monthly *Vigilea.*